



# Department of Justice

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## **NINETEEN INDICTED IN WABASH VALLEY METHAMPHETAMINE TRAFFICKING CASE**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

INDIANAPOLIS - Joseph H. Hogsett, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced the indictment of 19 methamphetamine traffickers, which was unsealed today in U.S. District Court in Terre Haute. Law enforcement officers from the region participated in the execution of arrest and search warrants related to the investigation on persons and residences in the Vincennes and Washington area. The indictment was the result of an investigation directed by the Evansville office of the Drug Enforcement Administration, United States Marshal's Service, Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Internal Revenue Service, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Indiana State Police, Vincennes Police Department, Washington Police Department, Daviess County Sheriff's Department, Vigo County Sheriff's Department, Terre Haute Police Department, and Gibson County Sheriff's Department.

A federal grand jury returned one indictment in the case, which charged a total of nineteen individuals.

The indictment contained eleven counts and charged the following individuals:

- Jose Vasquez-Silva, Chicago, Illinois and Washington, Indiana
- Pedro Saul Trigo-Lopez, Chicago, Illinois
- Ruben Echavarria, Washington, Indiana
- Mario Aguayo-Ascazar, Washington, Indiana
- Mindy White, Washington, Indiana
- Anthony Nail, Vincennes, Indiana
- Ashley N. Thrasher, Washington, Indiana
- John M. Gootee, Bedford, Indiana
- Robbie L. Burris, Loogootee, Indiana
- Adam R. Lett, Bicknell, Indiana
- James G. Decker, Washington, Indiana

- Jeremy D. Mandabach, Washington, Indiana
- Heidi Lopez-Jarra, Chicago, Illinois and Washington, Indiana
- Melissa M. Serrano, Bicknell, Indiana
- Wbaldo Coronado Ramirez, Fort Wayne, Indiana
- Antonio Rodriguez, Fort Wayne, Indiana
- Eddie Wayne Grisham, Vincennes, Indiana
- Pablo LNU, Washington, Indiana
- Charlene Chambers, Washington, Indiana

Fourteen of the defendants are charged with conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. The indictment charges that Vasquez-Silva and Echavarria coordinated the activities of a methamphetamine distribution organization operating in the Vincennes and Washington areas. Trigo, a resident of Chicago, served as a methamphetamine source for the organization. The primary distributors for Silva and Echavarria included White, Ascazar, Nail, Thrasher, Gootee, Burris, Lett, Decker, Mandabach, Pablo LNU, and Chambers.

Eight of the defendants were charged with conspiracy to launder monetary instruments. These individuals include Vasquez-Silva, Trigo, Echavarria, White, Nail, Thrasher, Lopez-Jarra, and Serrano.

Four defendants were charged with conspiracy to interfere with commerce by threats or violence (known as the "Hobbs Act"). The indictment charges that Echavarria, Ramirez, Rodriguez, and Grisham conspired to take possession of drug proceeds from the interstate trafficking of methamphetamine from a residence located at 13100 South U.S. Highway 41, Apartment 1, Pimento, Indiana on June 28, 2010.

Initial hearings will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, December 10, 2010, for some of the defendants before a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Terre Haute.

The indictment is an allegation only, and all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial or by guilty plea.

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